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THE RAGTIMER

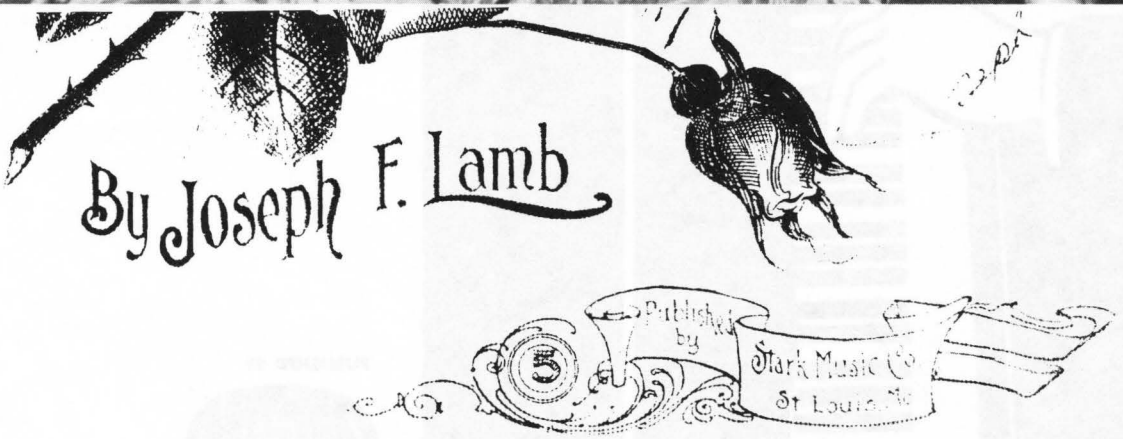
THE BASH ISSUE
November-December
1984

PUBLISHED BY
THE RAGTIME SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE
PRESERVATION OF
CLASSICAL RAGTIME

American Beauty

By Joseph F. Lamb



SEE PAGE 4 - "Chatting with Amelia"

RAGTIME...
UNDER YOUR HAT

FOUNDED 1962
INCORPORATED 1970

THE RAGTIME SOCIETY
INCORPORATED

is a non-profit corporation having the following objects;

To preserve classical ragtime music and to pursue such other activities as shall serve to maintain and develop interest in classical ragtime music and music related thereto.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1985

John Arpin - President
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Mark Wittmann - Secretary
Jack Hutton - Editor
Pel Bell-Smith - Director
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Betty Miquelon - Director

When you think about it, there is something unfair about this annual Bash issue. It spotlights the Bash performers (rightfully so) but overlooks the 300 others who support ragtime simply by attending this unique annual celebration.

It also overlooks the many Society members who cannot attend, particularly those who faithfully support the Society thousands of miles away.

So consider yourself honoured, even though your picture or name does not appear in this issue. To us, you are all special!

If you are marking dates on a calendar, start thinking about next year's Bash on the weekend of Oct. 19-20-21. Space has already been reserved at the Cara Inn. (And don't forget to mail us your 1985 membership dues. Your support is the lifeblood of our voluntary organization)

Our next issue: watch for a profile of ragtime composer/performer David Thomas Roberts by Jean and Paul Huling.

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CHATTING WITH AMELIA

By Jack Hutton

Eubie Blake's biographer, Al Rose, wrote he had never known someone who was so surrounded by love, regardless of where Eubie was. If there is anyone else in that select category, it must be Amelia Lamb, the widow of ragtime composer Joseph Lamb, a gentle Brooklyn lady whose presence has provided a focus year after year for the annual Ragtime Bash. Joseph Lamb's "American Beauty Rag" (see the inside cover) could easily have been named for her because Amelia is one lady who proves that beauty and age do mix.

For the past couple of years, Amelia ("Don't call me Mrs. Lamb. I'm Amelia") has announced at the end of each Bash that it is her last. After hearing the same announcement at the end of the '84 Bash, I spent some time with Amelia reminiscing about her famous husband. (I also took the portrait on the inside cover)

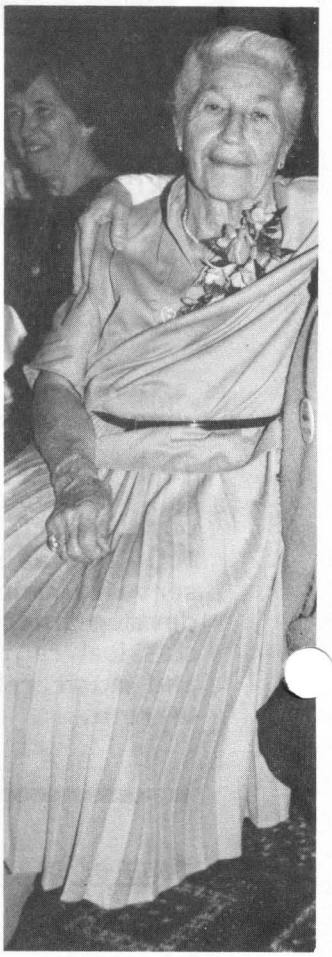


PHOTO BY
JOAN PACKER

Amelia on meeting Joe Lamb: "I didn't even like him when we first met. I was 15, and my brother Jack kept telling me I had to hear this tremendous piano player he knew. I had a piece of new sheet music which I asked Joe to play when we went over to visit. He said no. I thought he was pretty stand-offish but decided I might be hasty in judging him. The next time, with a different piece of music, he did the same thing. That did it. I wasn't interested in talking to him again."

Six years later they were married after Joe's first wife had died in a flu epidemic. Joe and Amelia were married when she was 21 and a half ("My mother didn't want me to get married too young, so we had to wait")

Her favorite Lamb rag: "It's 'Alaskan Rag' which Joe dedicated to Bob Darch."

On meeting Rudie Blesch: "Patricia and I had been out shopping that day. While we were out, Mr. Blesch and that lady (Harriet Janis) had gone to a couple of neighbour houses without finding us. The neighbours must have thought strangers were trying to steal something because they said they didn't know us. When I answered the knock on the door, the man said: "Excuse me, does Joseph Lamb live here?" I said, "Yes, I'm Mrs. Lamb." He was so excited that he turned around and shouted to the lady in the car: "We've found them. We've found the house!" Joe wasn't home, but I invited them in for coffee and a chat. After all, even though I didn't know who they are, I do have some manners."

On Joe's playing: "He'd play every night after dinner until he went to bed. He loved to compose. One night he sat up in bed at 3 a.m. and said he had a theme in his head that he was afraid he might forget. He thought he'd go downstairs and play it on the piano before he forgot it. 'Won't the neighbours think that's great,' I said. He fell asleep again, so I can't be sure whether he remembered that music later. I think he did, however, and that it was the Alaskan Rag or another of the tunes he finished a short time later."

FOR SPACE REASONS, RAGTIME RUMBLES, THE REPRINT SERVICE, THE RAG INDEX AND AN ARTICLE BY CATHERINE WILSON WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

Your humble Editor says...

I WISH SCOTT JOPLIN HAD BEEN THERE TO HEAR JOHN ARPIN

The 1984 Ragtime Bash took your Editor back in memory to the first one he attended several years ago. Although I'd been a member off and on since the late 1960's, I wandered into my first Bash quite by chance and listened with great curiosity to the Saturday afternoon program before submitting my name. It's impossible for non-players to understand the nerves that can build up before your name is called: the feeling that you are about to walk a tightrope in front of 300 people, trying to recall all the tricks that can keep you up, and hoping that your hands won't tremble. In my case, I was the first called after dinner and decided on the way to the piano that I'd play "Handful of Keys". As I rose from the piano, I mentally challenged anyone in the room to top my Waller gymnastics. I didn't have long to wait because 90 seconds later (I was halfway back to my seat) a kid from Cleveland with horn-rimmed glasses made it sound as if I hadn't practised for a year! Right then, I took a close look, not only at George Foley but at everyone else in the room, seeing the Ragtime Society with new eyes. Every year at the Ragtime Bash has been a similar learning experience for me, hearing pieces for the first time, hearing fine musicians from all over the continent (or Europe), sharing the knowledge that collectors like Harold Gast, Keith and Gene Miller bring to the annual gathering, and savouring the fact that I'm surrounded by a special group of people. All this is a prelude to saying that the 1984 Ragtime Bash not only lived up to all the ones I've attended but also seemed to honour the spirit of ragtime more than any I can recall. Yvonne Clothier, making her first appearance at the Bash (not her last, we hope!), reminded us what ragtime is all about with an impromptu Joplin concert Sunday noon at the hotel piano bar. Peter Dupuys, also making his first appearance, impressed all with his stride facility. The Miller brothers brilliantly organized a Saturday morning seminar on old sheet music and records that we hope becomes an instant tradition. It was the Ragtime Society at its best, illustrating why the volunteer organization has defied all odds by continuing to thrive for more than two decades, and why the annual event is a celebration that Scott Joplin would be proud to attend. Let's hope that, somewhere up there, the ragtime professor from Missouri had a chance to hear Sandra Thwaites, Norm Barker, John Arpin and all the others who played his beloved music that Saturday night at the '84 Bash.

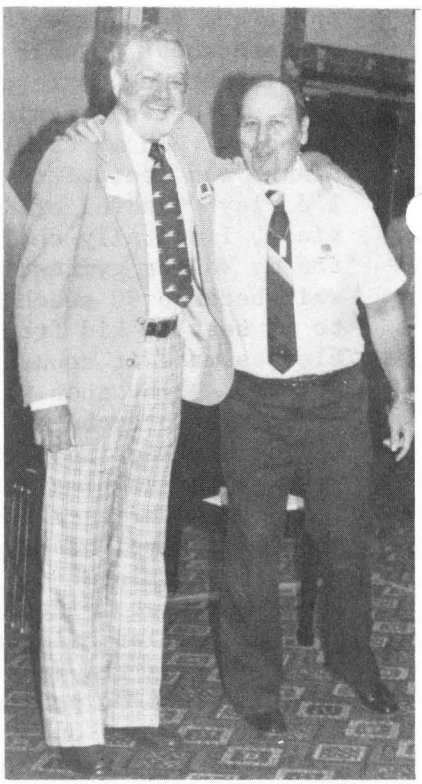
Jack Hutton

THE 1984 RAGTIME BASH!

The formal program

TEX WYNDHAM	Mississippi Rag (Krell)
SANDRA THWAITES	Bethena (Joplin)
NORM BARKER	Sugar Cane (Joplin)
PETOT	Lily Queen (Joplin and Arthur Marshall)
JOAN PACKER	Bohemia (Lamb)
FRANK WITTMANN	Dynamite Rag (F. Henry Klickmann & Paul Biese)
GLORIA EKROM	The Mormon
RUSS MERIFIELD	Numb Fumblin' (Waller)
ROSEMARY RENAUD	Toad Stool Rag (Lamb)
WAYNE ADAMS	Making Waves (Frank Wittmann)
JACK CUFF	Storyville Sport (Tom Shea)
RICHARD BERRY	Augustan Club Waltz (Joplin)
GERRY VONDY	Weeping Willow (Joplin)
CHARLES CASTNER	Brun Campbell Express (Shea)
REID KAISER	Diga Diga Do
TIM SANDOR	Slipover (Bargy)
LOUISE CASTNER	Shout For Joy
TIM ALLEN and WILLIE WILSON	Pine Apple Rag (Joplin), Nola (Arndt) (banjos)
AUSTIN KITCHEN	Memories of You (Eubie Blake)
CHARLES DAVIS	Symphonic # 2 (Axel Christianson)
CATHERINE WILSON	The Entertainer (Joplin)
WILSON & ARPIN	The Easy Winners (Joplin)
BEN CONROY & CHARLIE BOOTY	The Cara Inn Rag

5:05 p.m. INTERMISSION



MY BUDDY!
Ben Conroy and
Charlie Booty

AT LEFT:
Yvonne Clothier

INTERMISSION -- THE RAINBOW GARDENS JAZZ ORCHESTRA: Keith Honeywell, trombone, Al Bird, cornet, John Sannen, clarinet/alto sax/ Jim Webber, clarinet/tenor sax; Gordon Vogt, drums/vocals; Jack Hutton, piano; Ric Giorgi, bass/leader; Willie Wilson, guitar/banjo/vocals. (Black Bottom; Hungry Blues; Because My Baby Don't Mean "Maybe" Now; (I'll Be A Friend) With Pleasure; I'm Gonna Meet My Sweetie Now; I've Got Five Dollars; Lazy Day; Telling It To The Daisies; Zonky)

ROSS McLACHLAN and GARY BARRETT (Dr. Drums &the Ragtime Kid)	Happy Cat Rag
PETER DUPUYS	Why Do I Lie To Myself About Us?
BESS FELL	The Jazz Mistress (Mayerl)
CHARLIE BOOTY	Temptation Rag, Weeping Willow (Fischer)
YVONNE CLOTHIER	Heliotrope Bouquet (Joplin-Chauvin), Stoptime Rag (Joplin)
GLENN JENKS	French Lace (own composition) Troubadour Rag (Scott)
JACK HUTTON	One for the Road (Morath), One for Amelia (Morath)
BEN CONROY	Mamie's Blues (Morton), Albert and Pinetop's Rag
CONROY and BOOTY	Impromptu Rag
LAMB tribute	Patricia, played by Charles Davis Cottontail Rag, played by Glenn Jenks

PRESENTATION TO AMELIA LAMB BY MARK WITTMANN

SISTER JEAN and LAUNDRY FATS (Jean and Paul Huling, piano and washboard)	Ketchup Rag (Irene Giblin), The Show-Me Rag (Tichenor)
TEX WYNDHAM	Anti-Ragtime Rag, Keystone Rag, He's In The Jailhouse Now
GEORGE FOLEY	Procrastination Rag, Beedle-Um-Bo, Nickle In the Slot (Confrey)
JOHN ARPIN	Porto Rico (Dabney), Bohemia (Joplin), Eubie Blake medley: (Memories of You, I'm Just Wild About Harry, Chevy Chase Rag); Ragtime Nightingale (Lamb)

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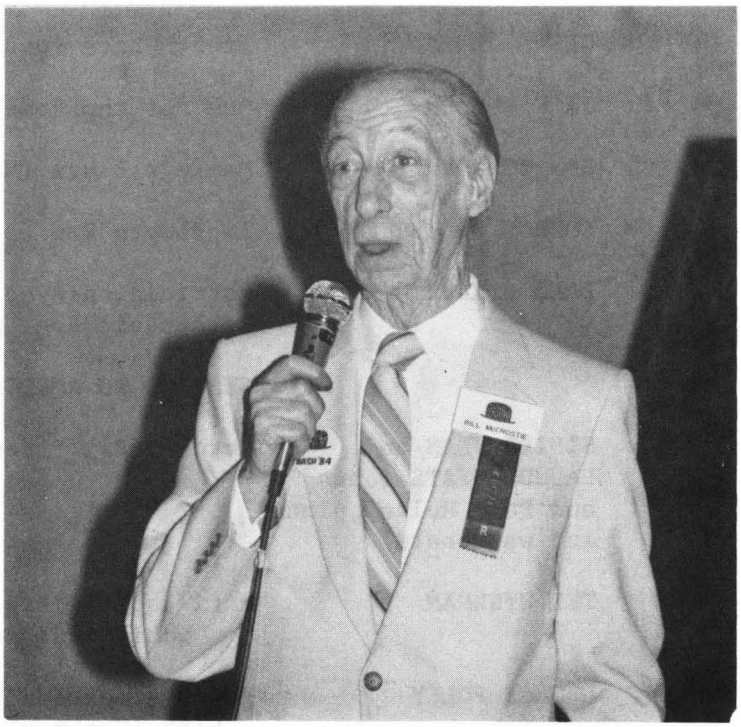
PAUL and JEAN HULING
(Sister Jean and
Laundry Fats)

TEX and NANCY WYNDHAM
Master and Mistress
of the 1984 Ceremonies

JOHN ARPIN
Society President



BILL (Rumbles) McCROSTIE
Society Vice-President,
Managing Director

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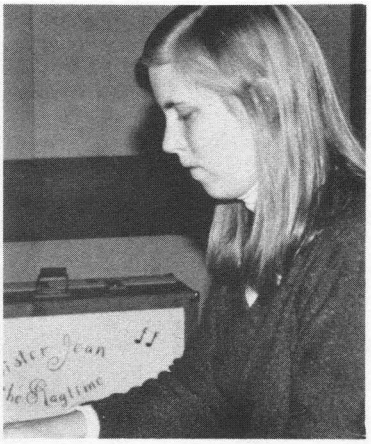
BESS FELL

GLORIA EKROM

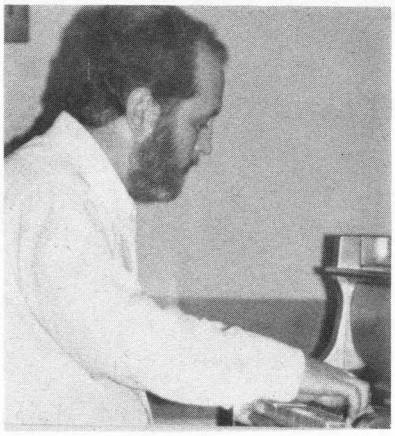
WAYNE ADAMS

REID KAISER

AUSTIN KITCHEN



LOUISE CASTNER



GLENN JENKS

YVONNE CLOTHIER

RUSS MERIFIELD

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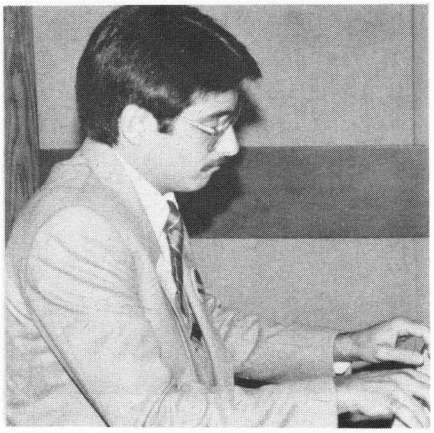
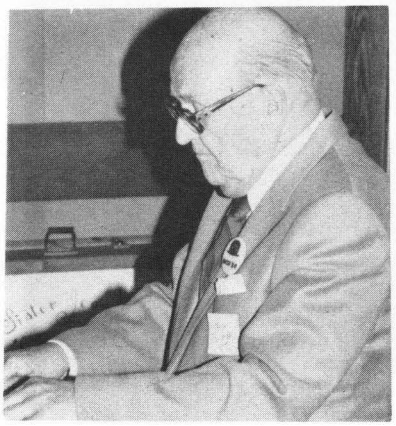
SANDRA THWAITES

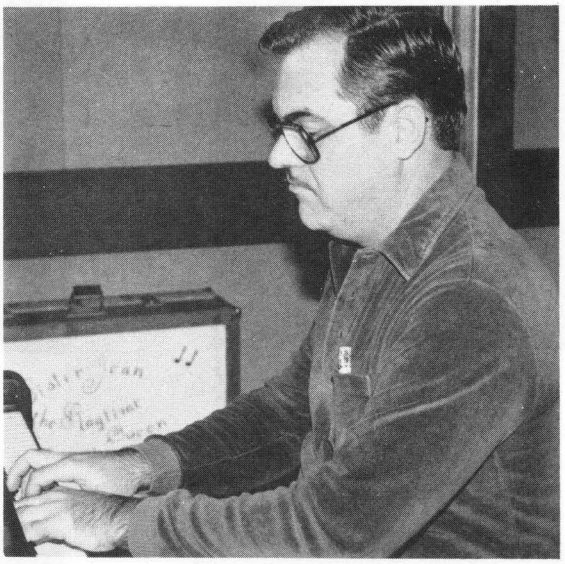


FRANK WITTMANN

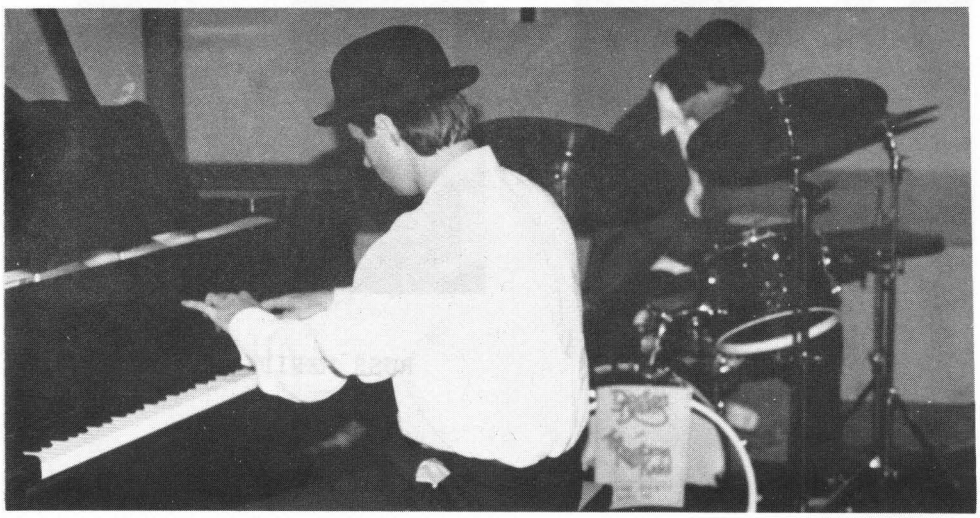


JACK CUFF

WILLIE WILSON, TIM ALLEN



CHARLES DAVIS



AT LEFT:
ROSS McLACHLAN and
GARY BARRETT
(Dr. Drums and the
Ragtime Kid)

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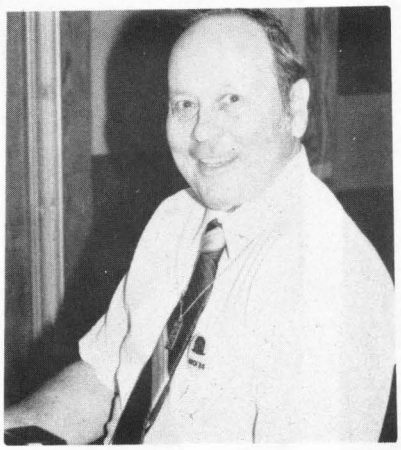
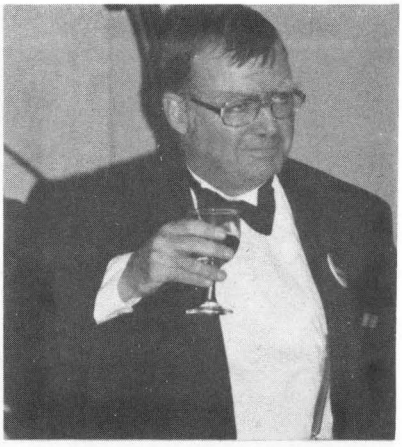
PETER DUPUYS



CHARLES BOOTY

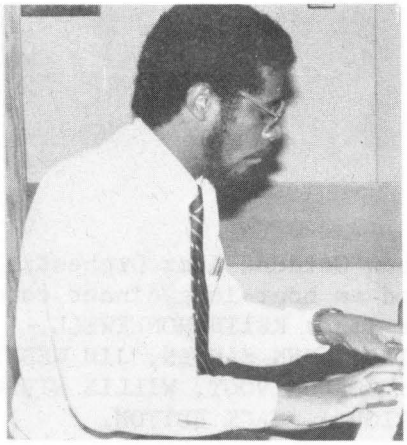
BEN CONROY

NORM BARKER



JACK HUTTON

GERRY VONDY



RICHARD BERRY

CHARLES CASTNER

ROSEMARY RENAUD

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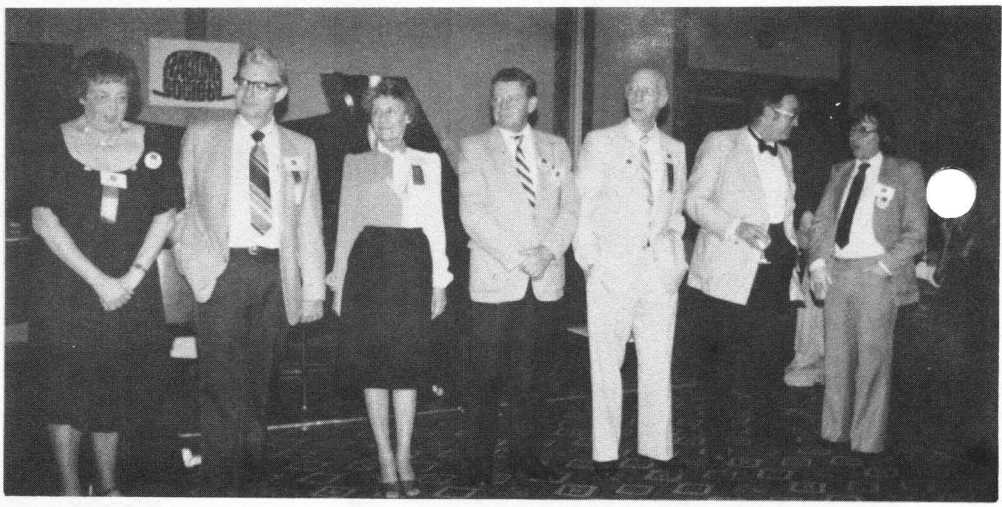
GEORGE FOLEY

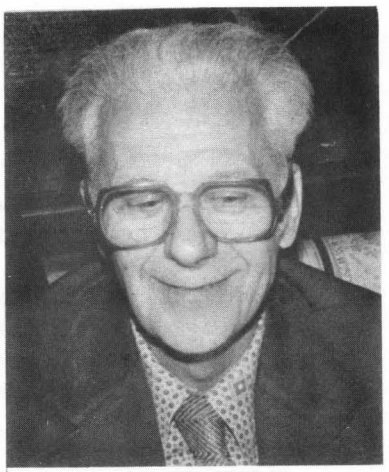
Presentation to AMELIA LAMB by
Society director MARK WITTMANN



Society Directors: (1 to r)
ZELLA CONNELL MCCROSTIE,
JOHN FAIRHEAD, BETTY MIQUELON,
PELL BELL-SMITH, BILL MCCROSTIE,
JACK HUTTON, JOHN ARPIN

Rainbow Gardens Jazz Orchestra
played an hour-long dinner concert.
Front line: KEITH HONEYWELL,
AL BIRD; JOHN SANNEN, JIM WEBBER;
Rear: GORDON VOGT, WILLIE WILSON;
RIC GIORGI, JACK HUTTON.

SOMETHING DOING



By Elmer Renaud

Ragtime Society members, we've discovered, are probably the world's most faithful supporters of lonely professional pianists, often scheduling business trips to hear a favorite ragtime musician. Many now faithfully consult this thumbnail guide before planning professional or pleasure travelling. (Performers can contact Elmer Renaud at 68 Hillside Drive, Apt.207, Toronto, Ont., Canada M4K 2M4)

JOHN ARPIN Two chances a night to hear John! First at Club 22, the piano bar at Toronto's Windsor Arms Hotel, 5:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, then a few blocks southeast at the King Edward Hotel's Consort Lounge from 8:30 p.m. on.

MEL COLLIE A frequent banjo performer at recent Bashes, Mel performs frequently around Toronto, usually at the Jack Russell Pub, 27 Wellesley St. East, Toronto. He has added a bass to his group, the Entertainers, (now banjo, piano, bass and drums) Immediate dates: Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1-15- 31.

ROBERT R. (RAGTIME) DARCH -- Hotel Kramer, Malmo, Sweden, Sept. 10-20, 20:00-01:00; Restaurant Downtown Key Club, Universitetsgaten 26 (30 hours per week, flexible), Oslo, Norway, Sept. 24- Oct. 20; Royal Alexandria Hotel, Heleopolis, Egypt, Oct. 24-Nov. 12; Peponi Hotel, Lamu Island, Kenya, East Africa, Nov. 14-Dec. 5; Hlyhluwe Holiday Inn, Johannesburg, South Africa, Dec. 7 through Jan. 6, 1985, 5 days per week, 20:00-24:00

GEORGE FOLEY the youthful composer of the "Cleveland Rag" and a stand-out performer at many previous Bashes can be heard in the Cleveland area: East Side Mo's, Routes 306 and I.90, Mentor, Ohio --Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00 to 11:00, Friday, 8:30 to 12:30, Saturday, 9:00 to 1:00. Elbon Cafe, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Wednesday, 8:00 to 11:00./

KERRY GOWER is the featured pianist/vocalist with the PAINT CREEK JAZZ SOCIETY at Nealee's on the Hill, Tiemkin Road, Rochester, Michigan, Friday and Saturday 9:00-1 a.m. winter hours (9:30 - 1:30 a.m., summer hours). The Saturday personnel includes Chuck Moss, trombone, Dave Tatroe, clarinet, Bill Bolle, bass, Rick Bryant, drums, and Kerry on piano.

WALT GOWER Plays clarinet at the Woodbridge Tavern, St. Aubin and Woodbridge, Detroit, Michigan with St. Aubin Street Ramblers every Saturday and alternate Fridays (9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.). Bob Milne plays piano Saturday nights; Linda plays the alternate Fridays (as noted below in SOMETHING DOING)

DAN GRINSTEAD a welcome and impressive newcomer at the '83 Bash, can be heard in the Seattle, Washington, area.

JEAN AND PAUL HULING (Sister Jean, the Ragtime Queen and Laundry Fat) Playing every Saturday, 9 p.m.- 1 a.m., Cleaveland Crate and Trucking Co. Restaurant, Cleveland, Ohio, with Ralph Cruegel's New Eagle Jazz Band.

GLENN JENKS is a must if you're visiting the Maine-New Hampshire area (why not call Glenn at 207-236-2789 to find where he is playing?)

MOLLY KAUFMAN can be heard in the Denver area. (Send us your latest itinerary, Molly!)

JOHNNY MADDOX Playing at Il Porto Restaurant, 121 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, Tuesday-Saturday.

MIKE MONTGOMERY Playing at the Dakota Inn Rathskeller, 17324 John R St., Detroit, Mi (near Woodward and McNichols) on Friday nights between 8 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. Mike is there most Friday nights, but call 313-867-9722 to make sure if you're planning a visit.

BOB MILNE Ramada Inn, Telegraph Road, Southfield, Michigan, solo piano, Monday through Thursday 5-8 p.m. (Also Dixieland Sunday brunch, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.)

Woodbridge Tavern, Woodbridge Street, Detroit, Michigan, Dixieland band, 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m. every Saturday night Linda Milne plays with the Dixieland band alternate Fridays, 9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.(259-0578)

BOB AND LINDA MILNE Real Seafood Co., Portside Mall, Summit Street, Toledo, Ohio, 12:00-2; 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Sunday

NEW BLACK EAGLE JAZZ BAND (Pianist is Bob Pilsbury; Eli Newberger is tuba player and occasional pianist) Plays every Thursday, 7:30 -11 p.m. at Sticky Wicket Pub, Hopkinton, MA.

RAINBOW GARDENS JAZZ ORCHESTRA is playing Friday-Saturday nights at Gracie's Restaurant , (508 Queen St. West, 416-363-4171, reservations advised for dinner). Concert: Sunday, Nov. 25, Toronto Harbourfront; appearing on Peter Gzowski's cross-Canada Morningside radio show, CBC, 11 a.m., Dec. 31, for special New Year's Eve concert; playing Saturday, Feb. 2, in concert with London Symphony Orchestra, London, Ont. (more details later). Cruising the Caribbean Jan. 5-12, returning to Gracie's on Friday, Jan. 18 to show off new tans.

SI RICHARDS Plays Wednesdays 7 p.m. to 12 p.m. and Thursdays 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Chung's Restaurant, 21080 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126 (216-333-3070). Or you'll find Si on Friday nights at the Cleveland Yachting Club, 200 Yacht Club Drive, Rocky River, Ohio 44116 (216-333-1155) between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

BOB SEELEY Plays Tuesday to Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., at Charley's Crab Restaurant, Highway 175 and Crooks Road, Troy, Michigan (a northern suburb of Detroit). Bob Seeley is in his 12th year at Charley's Crab Restaurant, which won't surprise Bash admirers of his ragtime, stride, boogie and blues styles. To confirm that Bob is playing call 313-546-4337 (home number)

CATHERINE WILSON Playing regularly at the Courtyard Cafe, Windsor Arms Hotel, Monday to Saturday, 7 p.m.-11 p.m., Oct. 22-27; Oct. 29-Nov. 3; Nov. 26-Dec. 1; Dec. 24-29. She and John Arpin have a piano duo concert Sunday, Nov. 25th at St. Dunstan's Church in Toronto (Victoria Park and Danforth). DATE CHANGED FROM SEPT. 30th.

TEX WYNDHAM appearing with his RED LION JAZZ BAND the first Friday of each month, 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., The Haberdashery, 8th and King Streets, Wilmington, Delaware.

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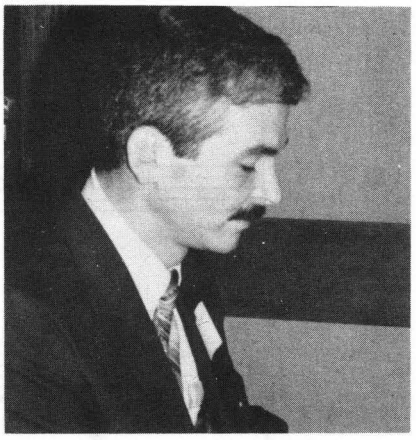
THANKS, JOAN!

JOAN PACKER
was (again) our
Splendid Bash
Photographer



Above:
CHARLES PETOT (left)
TIM SANDOR (right)
At the left:
CATHERINE WILSON

"CLICK-I-TY-CLACK"

Novelty March Two-Step.

EDMUND BRAHAM, Op. 386.

INTRO.

Moderato.

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TRIO. *Ben marcato.*

WALTON PROCESS CHICAGO

Click-it-y-Clack

Novelty-Two Step

by

Edmund Braham

THE MUELLER ENGR. CO.

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SAM FOX PUB. CO.
CLEVELAND, OHIO.